

Claims:

1. Natural lycopene concentrate, characterized in
that

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A - it is water-soluble at room temperature;

10 B - it contains at least 1 mg of lycopene per g of the
said concentrate, up to 30% of proteins, up to 30% of
polysaccharides, up to 10% of organic acids, and at
least 30% of lipid compounds.

2. Concentrate according to Claim 1, characterized in
that it is provided in pulverulent, liquid or gel form.

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3. Concentrate according to Claim 1, characterized in
that it may additionally contain vitamin E and/or
vitamin C.

20 4. Concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 3,
characterized in that it contains between 1 mg and
40 mg of lycopene per g of concentrate.

25 5. Concentrate according to Claim 4, characterized in
that it preferably contains between 10 and 30 mg of
lycopene per g of concentrate.

6. Process for preparing the concentrate according to
one of Claims 1 to 5, in which:

30 - a plant structure containing a lipophilic compound
is alkalinized,

- the alkalinized solution is heated to boiling
temperature and maintained for 1 to 60 minutes,

35 - the fibres and various insoluble compounds are
isolated by solid-liquid separation,

- the complex obtained is acidified,

- the carbohydrates and other soluble compounds are
isolated by solid-liquid separation.

7. Process according to Claim 6, characterized in that calcium is added to the complex in order to obtain a gel.

5 8. Process according to Claim 6, characterized in that the emulsion is dried by spray-drying or freeze-drying in order to obtain a powder.

9. Use of the concentrate according to one of
10 Claims 1 to 8 in a cosmetic composition in order to slow the ageing of the skin and/or to combat skin damage which may be caused by exposure to UV, the said composition containing at least $10^{-10}\%$ of lycopene.

15 10. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8 in a composition which can be ingested orally in order to optimize the absorption of lycopene so as to induce photoprotection and thus slow the ageing of the skin, for example in drinks, chocolate, 20 ice creams, cereal preparations, soluble coffee and prepared meals.

11. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8, as a dietary supplement in the form of 25 pills, gelatin capsules or tablets containing doses of 0.001 to 100% of the said concentrate.

12. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8, orally or topically, in order to avoid 30 any skin condition linked to exposure to UV.

13. Product which can be obtained by the process according to Claims 6 to 8.